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**Sun city The biggest solar village in Britain is to be built in London, says David Spittles**

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THE UK's largest solar village is to be built on a disused gasworks in Kensal Green. Planning permission has been granted by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for 300 homes featuring state- of-the art solar technology.

Called Canalside, the village will not only have green credentials, it will also be an architectural showpiece, says the developer, the Peabody Trust.

Piers Gough is responsible for the masterplan, which includes offices and restaurants as well as housing, all set around a restored canal basin.

Sixty of the homes will be for outright sale, 150 for shared ownership and the rest for rent. Solar panels are incorporated into the homes' design.

"On sunny days, the panels will produce enough energy to power the entire 10-acre site," says Dickon Robinson, development director of the Peabody Trust. The 70 million project is expected to take three years to complete.

Peabody, one of London's largest housing associations, is keen to promote private ownership in line with Government policy on mixed- use development.

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